

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (withdrawn)

12. (currently amended) A surgical method for manipulating a graft vessel and a target vessel, comprising:

placing an end of the graft vessel against the side of the target vessel;

inserting an anvil through the side of the target vessel, wherein said anvil includes a channel defined therein;

placing a shield between the end of the graft vessel and the side of the target vessel, wherein said shield is connected to said anvil; and

moving a cutter to incise the target vessel, wherein said shield protects the graft vessel from the cutter, and wherein said cutter is connected to a member movable along at least a portion of said channel.

13-14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising removing said shield from between the end of the graft vessel and the side of the target vessel, after said moving.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising deforming at least a part of said shield to facilitate said removing.

17-67. (withdrawn)

68. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said shield is rotatable relative to said anvil.

69. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said shield includes an aperture defined therein, said aperture substantially aligned with said channel.

70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein said aperture receives at least part of said cutter during said moving.

71. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the proximal end of said shield is connected to said anvil, and wherein the distal end of said shield is free.

72. (new) The method of claim 71, further comprising biasing said free end of said shield away from said anvil.

73. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said inserting and said placing are performed substantially simultaneously.

74. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said shield is out of contact with said cutter during said moving.

75. (new) A surgical method for manipulating a graft vessel and a target vessel, comprising:  
placing an end of the graft vessel against the side of the target vessel;  
placing a shield between the end of the graft vessel and the side of the target vessel;  
moving a cutter to incise the target vessel, wherein said shield protects the graft vessel from  
the cutter;

removing said shield from between the end of the graft vessel and the side of the target vessel,  
after said moving; and  
deforming at least a part of said shield to facilitate said removing.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising inserting an anvil through the side of the target vessel, wherein said anvil is connected to said anvil.